

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating or preventing **Type II** diabetes by administering to a human or **other mammal in need thereof** ~~animal~~ an effective dosage of an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia*, **wherein the extract contains one or more steroidal glycosides.**

Claim 2 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 1, wherein said plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* is selected from the group consisting of *Trichocaulon piliferum* and *Trichocaulon officinale* and said plant of the genus *Hoodia* is selected from the group consisting of *Hoodia currorii*, *Hoodia gordonii* and *Hoodia lugardii*.

Claim 3 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 1, wherein the extract is obtainable by a process comprising the steps of treating collected plant material with a solvent to extract a fraction having anti-diabetic activity, separating the extraction solution from the rest of the plant material, removing said solvent from said extraction solution and recovering said extract.

Claim 4 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 3, wherein the process further comprises the step of concentrating the active agent in the extracted material by further extraction with a solvent.

Claim 5 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 3, wherein said solvent of said solvent extraction step or steps is one or more of methylene chloride, water, methanol, hexane, ethyl acetate or mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 3, wherein the process further comprises the step of concentrating the active agent in the extracted material by chromatographic separation.

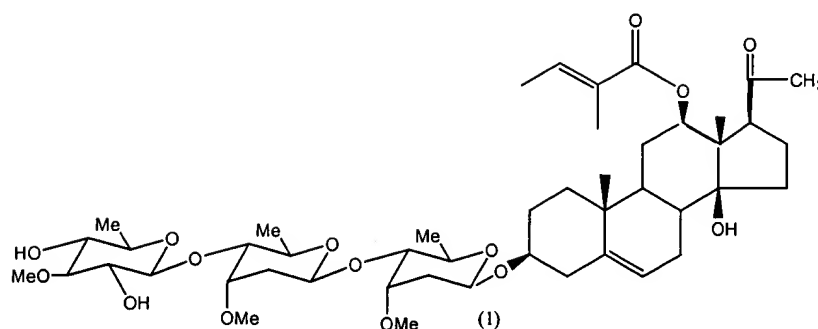
Claim 7 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 6, wherein said chromatographic separation employs one or more of chloroform, methanol, ethyl acetate, hexane or mixtures thereof as an eluant.

Claim 8 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 6, wherein the process includes carrying out the chromatographic separation on a column, collecting **an** the eluate in fractions from the column, evaluating the fractions to determine their anti-diabetic activity, and selecting at least one fraction containing the **active** ~~anti-diabetic~~ agent.

Claim 9 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 1, wherein said extract is obtainable by a process comprising the steps of pressing collected plant material to separate sap from solid plant material and recovering the sap free of the solid plant material to form the extract.

Claim 10 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 1, wherein said extract is processed to form a free-flowing powder.

Claim 11 (currently amended): **The** A method according to claim 1, wherein said extract comprises the compound of general formula (1):



and/or its pro-drugs.

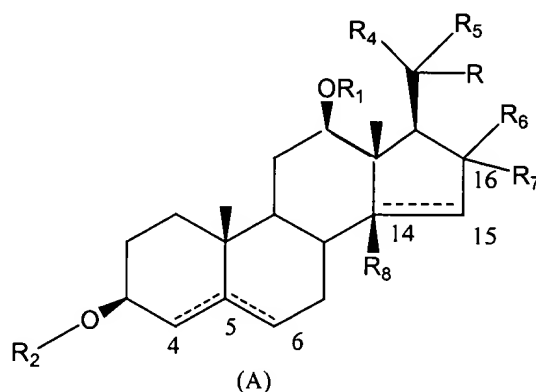
Claim 12 (currently amended): The A method according to claim 1, wherein said extract is administered in a foodstuff or beverage to have an anti-diabetic effect when ingested.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): An extract as referred to in claim 1 for use as a medicament having anti-diabetic activity.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A composition having anti-diabetic activity comprising an effective quantity of an extract as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A foodstuff or beverage comprising an effective quantity of an extract as referred to in claim 1 to have an anti-diabetic effect when ingested.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for treating or preventing diabetes comprising the step of administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of at least one compound chosen from the compounds of general formula (A):



wherein:

R = alkyl;

R<sub>1</sub> = H, alkyl, tigloyl, anthraniloyl, or any other organic ester group;

R<sub>2</sub> = H, or one or more 6-deoxy carbohydrates, or one or more 2,6-dideoxy carbohydrates, or glucose molecules, or combinations thereof;

R<sub>3</sub> = H, alkyl, aryl, acyl, or glucoxy,

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> = either R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> form together with the Carbon atom which they are attached to a carbonyl group (-C=O), or R<sub>4</sub> = H and R<sub>5</sub> = H, OH;

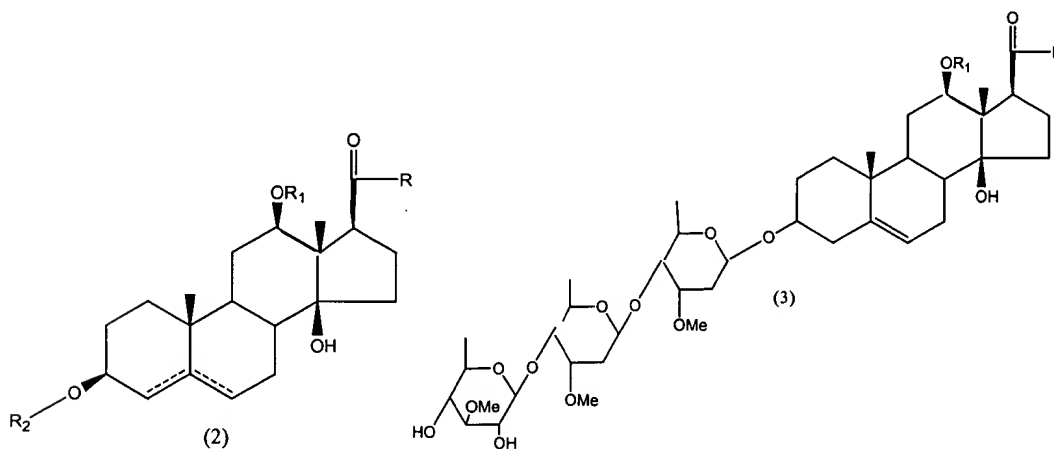
R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> = either R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> form together with the Carbon atom C-16 which they are attached to a carbonyl group (-C=O), or R<sub>6</sub> = H and R<sub>7</sub> = -OR<sub>3</sub>;

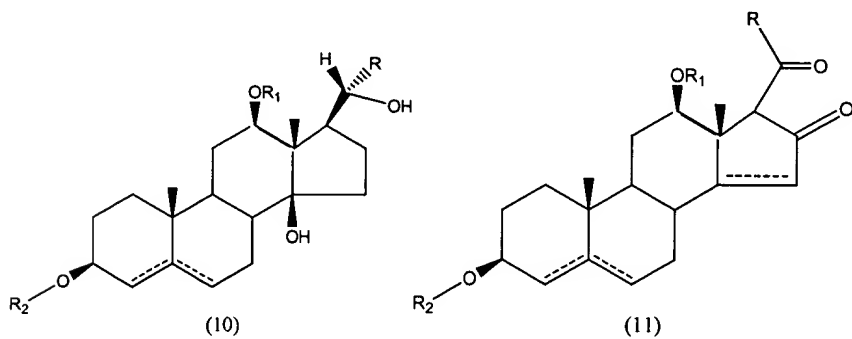
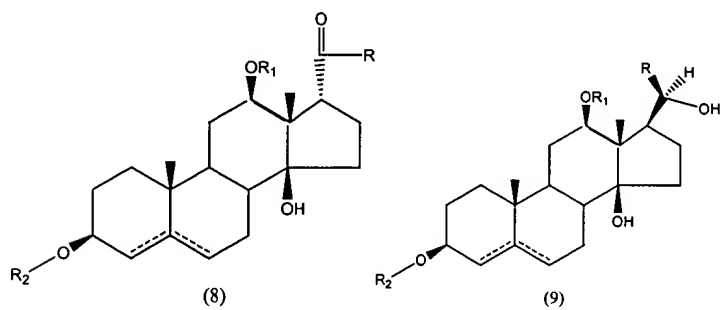
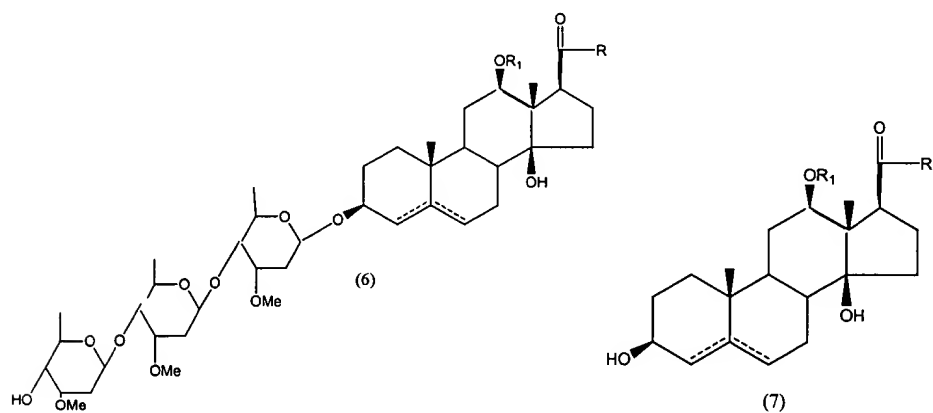
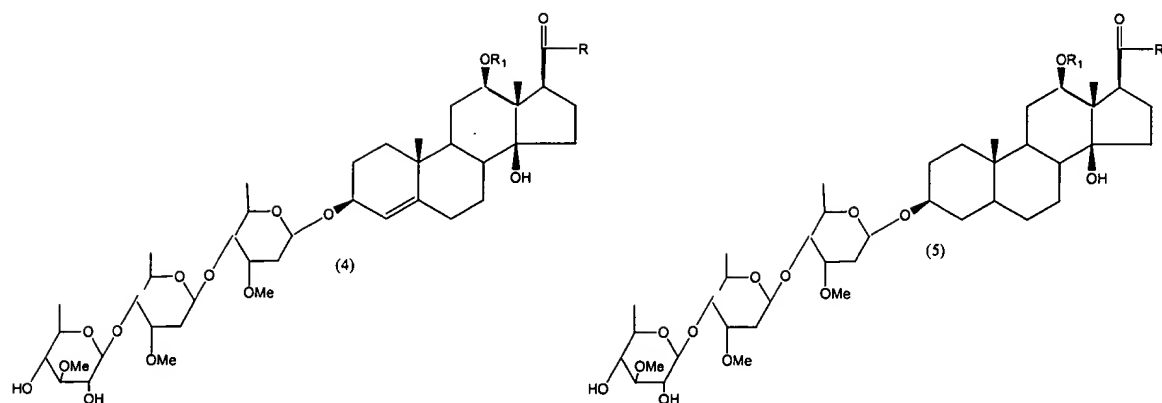
R<sub>8</sub> = H, OH;

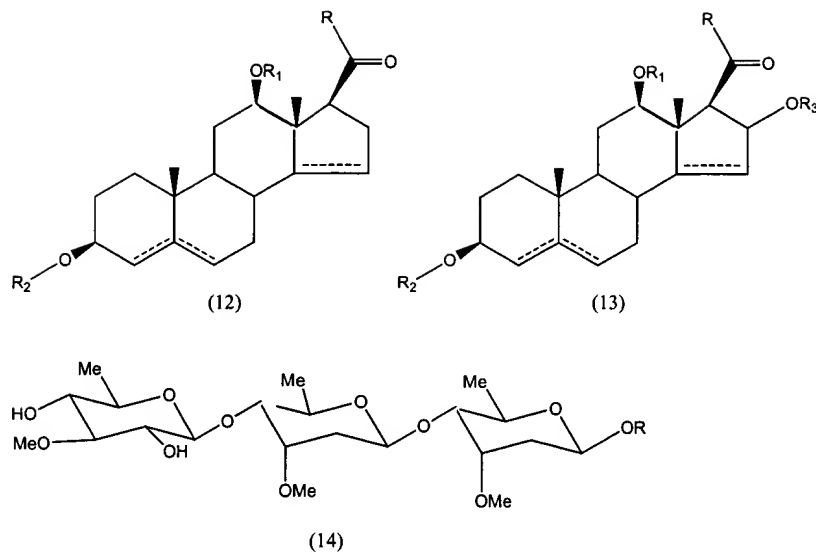
and the broken lines indicate the optional presence of a further bond between C4-C5 or C5-C6, and/or C14-C15;

and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pro-drugs.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 16, wherein the compounds of general formula (A) are chosen from the general formula (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14):







wherein in the general formula (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13):

R = alkyl;

R<sub>1</sub> = H, alkyl, tigloyl, anthraniloyl, or any other organic ester group;

R<sub>2</sub> = H, or one or more 6-deoxy carbohydrates, or one or more 2,6-dideoxy carbohydrates, or glucose molecules, or combinations thereof;

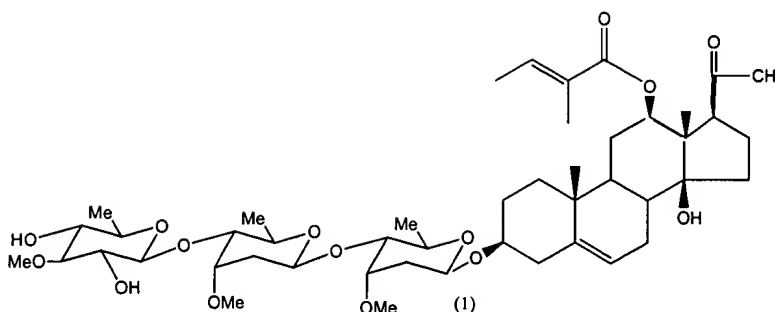
and the broken lines indicate the optional presence of a further bond between C4-C5 or C5-C6, and/or C14-C15;

R<sub>3</sub> = H, alkyl, aryl, acyl, or glucoxy;

and in the general formula (14):

R = H, alkyl, aryl or any steroid possessing a C14 beta hydroxy group, or a C12 beta hydroxy functionality, or a C17 acyl group, or a C5-C6 olefin, or combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): **A method for treating or preventing diabetes comprising the step of administering to a human or other mammal in need thereof an effective dosage of the** ~~method of claim 16 wherein said compound is a compound of general formula (1):~~ animal



Claim 19 (withdrawn): A compound as referred to in claim 16 for use as a medicament having anti-diabetic activity.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A composition having anti-diabetic activity comprising one or more of the compounds as referred to in claim 16.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 16 wherein said compound is administered in a foodstuff or beverage to have an anti-diabetic effect when ingested.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A foodstuff or beverage comprising an effective quantity of one or more of the compounds as referred to in claim 16 to have an anti-diabetic effect when ingested.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 14 or claim 20 when admixed with a pharmaceutical excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 23 which is prepared in unit dosage form.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for treating or preventing **Type II** diabetes comprising the step of administering to a human or other mammal in need thereof ~~animal~~ an effective dosage of a composition comprising the extract according to claim 1 ~~claims 14 or 20~~.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A method of decreasing blood glucose level comprising the step of administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14).

Claim 27 (withdrawn): A method of preventing diabetes comprising the step of administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14).

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A method of treating impaired glucose tolerance comprising the step of administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14).

Claim 29 (currently amended): The method according to claim 25, ~~any of claims 1, 16, 26, 27 or 28~~ wherein said composition ~~compound, or said composition~~, is administered in a dosage amount of from 0.05 mg/kg/day to 100 mg/kg/day.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method according to claim 29, ~~31~~ wherein the dosage amount is 0.1 mg/kg/day to 50 mg/kg/day.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of:

- i) an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14) in association with
- ii) one or more other agents chosen from: representative agents to treat diabetes, glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors, sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitors, glucosidase inhibitors and aldose reductase inhibitors.



Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of treating or preventing diabetes comprising the step of administering to a human or other mammal in need thereof ~~animal~~ an effective dosage of

i) an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* ~~or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14)~~ in association with

ii) one or more other agents selected from the group consisting of ~~chosen from: representative agents to treat diabetes,~~ anti-diabetics, glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors, sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitors, glucosidase inhibitors and aldose reductase inhibitors,

wherein the extract contains one or more steroidal glycosides .

Claim 33 (withdrawn): Kits or single packages comprising

i) an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia* or at least one compound of formula (A), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14), and

ii) one or more other agents chosen from: representative agents to treat diabetes, glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors, sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitors, glucosidase inhibitors and aldose reductase inhibitors.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method according to ~~of~~ claim 32, wherein the ingredients i) and ii) are simultaneously, separately, or sequentially administered.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant of the genus *Hoodia* is *Hoodia currorii*.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant of the genus *Hoodia* is *Hoodia gordonii*.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant of the genus *Hoodia* is *Hoodia lugardii*.